WITHERNSEA. Yor

16th February, 1903.

To The

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

of

WITHERNSEA

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

I estimate the population of the District as 1480: At the Census of 1901 the population was 1414.

During the year 32 Births were registered in the District, viz:- 22 Males and 10 Females. The rate per 1000 being 22.00 as compared with 35.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

There were 26 Deaths -- 15 Males and 15 Females -- the net rate being 17.9 per 1000 -- The rate for the whole of England and Wales is 16.3.

It will be seen by the accompanying tables that in estimating the net death rate for the year, only one can be subtracted as being that of a "non-resident" occurring in a Public Institution in the District. Not only must we include deaths among visitors, many of whom come here only on account of illness and who cannot be reckoned as part of the residential population, but we must even include, as we do this year, the death of an outgoing washed up by the sea. The deaths among the actual residential population to whom alone the above estimate of 1480 refers, have been 21, or 14.1 per 1000 with an average age of 64.2 years.

One death occurred under one year which equals 31.2 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 155 per 1000 for the whole of England and Wales. Three between the ages of 1 and 5 years, Thirteen between 25 and 65, and Ten 65 and upwards.

There were 4 Insanity. Heart Disease accounted for 5 deaths, Brain Diseases 4, Kidney Disease 2, Old Age 3, Consumption 2, Enteric Fever 1.

It is worthy of note that the seven chief epidemic diseases account for but one death, the rate per 1000 being .03 as against .04 for the whole of, and 1.14 for Rural England and Wales.

Fourteen cases of Infectious Disease were notified, viz:- Diphtheria 3, Scarlet Fever 8, Enteric Fever 2, and Measles 1.

With regard to Diphtheria, the first case occurred at North Cliff Terrace in February. The sanitary arrangements of the house and those adjoining were thoroughly examined, but nothing was finally found to account for the case. The patient had, however, a week before been visited for a few days by a child from outside the district who had a nasal discharge at the time and a history of a sore throat.

I believe this to have been the source of infection. This case was treated at home and successfully isolated from the other children in the house.

The two remaining cases of Diphtheria occurred at Hull Road in January and in one family of visitors and were clearly traced to a brother who had joined them here at Christmas, convalescent after Diphtheria, but with a discharging sore behind one ear. These two cases were at once sent off to the Hull Sanatorium as belonging to Hull and the house thoroughly disinfected as was done in the North Cliff case.

The Eight cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at various periods -- Four were in one family, Two in another, and Two isolated cases. In all the patients were isolated at the Sanatorium and the houses thoroughly disinfected afterwards.

With regard to Measles, it is quite evident that parents either ignore or neglect their responsibility in reference to the notification, and bearing in mind the serious epidemic which occurred in 1900 steps should be taken to enforce this notification. And I would suggest that a leaflet be distributed from house to house

drawing the attention of householders to their responsibilities in this connection.

The ten cases of Enteric Fever occurred in September and November at South Cliff Road and Sheffield House, Queen Street South respectively -- quite unconnected localities.

The South Cliff Road case was traced to the contamination of the drinking (well) water with sewage from defective drains. These drains were taken up entirely and relaid throughout under the supervision of your Surveyor.

Investigation of the Sheffield House case gave no result beyond the fact that the Analyst reported the drinking water to be suspicious, of which the occupiers were notified and advised to boil all water drawn for domestic purposes until the well be declared safe.

Pending the solution of the District Water Supply difficulty I must urge the importance, especially where new buildings are being erected, of enforcing the bye-laws referring to the proximity of drains to drinking water wells and also the importance of supervising the construction of all new wells, and the reconstruction of old ones.

Should unavoidable circumstances make it necessary that the drains should be within the prescribed distance, then they should be encased in cement in such a manner as your Surveyor may consider safe.

The wells upon which the District is entirely dependent for its water supply are, as I have before pointed out, constructed without any regard to surface contamination; they are built from the bottom of loose bricks and only sufficient lime is used to arch these bricks in at the top.

I suggest that for at least six feet from the surface the bricks should be laid in cement and, in addition, covered on the outside with cement at least one inch thick. That the upper six feet of the excavation should be at least one foot wider (in diameter) than the remainder, so as to leave a six inch space outside the covered bricks, all round, which space should be carefully packed with clay selected from the bottom of the excavation and carefully puddled in. That the crown of the well should be at least six inches above the surface (not

six to twelve inches below, as is the present custom) and that, lastly, the pipe through which the pump draws the water should be built firmly into the upper portion of the cement work, and not, as is the present custom, passed loosely through a hole in the dry brick wall, where it offers another inviting channel to contamination.

I am quite aware that there are other roads by which contaminating material can reach the water and that the well bore is not the only possible way. -- It is, however, an important way, and, I take it, about the only way within our control.

I now give a list of the more important sanitary work done in the District during the last three years. It will be seen that among other things the drains of some SEVENTY TWO HOUSES have been taken up and relaid under the supervision of your Surveyor. These sanitary defects for the most part only come to light gradually and the remedy must therefore be gradual. On the whole I think the amount of work done is satisfactory.

PROPERTY	OWNER	WORK DONE
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Ebor Arcade	Geo Hunter	Drains taken up, relaid & tested. Privies reconstructed.
1, 2, 3 Highfield Cottages	J. Patrick	Drains taken up, relaid and tested. Privies reconstructed.
2 & 3, North Cliff Terr	Miss Clarke	Drains taken up, relaid and tested. Privies reconstructed, Yards cemented.
4, "	C. Smith	
5, "	J Dixon	
6, 7, 8, & 9, "	Geo Cambridge	
10 & 10a Sea View	"	
11, Queen Street	J. Harman	Drains taken up, relaid and tested. Privies reconstructed, well washed out & cemented with Portland cement.
1, 2, 3, Alma Street	"	
5 & 6, Queen's Terr.	V. Lear	Main drain concreted round and connections relaid. New well sunk.
6 "	W. Cheverton-Brown	

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30287339

PROPERTY	OWNER	WORK DONE
1, 2, 3, Harcourt Terr.	G. Cambridge	Privies reconstructed.
4 "	T. Thorpe	Drains taken up, relaid and tested.
1, 2, 3, 4 Gladstone Villas	T. Chapman	Drains taken up, relaid and tested. Yards cemented.
2 & 3, Queen Street	Miss Jefferson	Drains taken up, relaid and tested; old brick culvert under house taken up.
5, Queen Street	W. Hodgson	Inhabitary privy and sink reconstructed.
6 & 7, Queen Street	G. Cambridge	Drains taken up, relaid and tested; old catch-pits abolished and sanitary gully traps substituted
2 & 3, Cambridge Street	"	
9, Queen Street	Mrs Akitt	Drains taken up & relaid
9a & 9b Cottages at rear of No. 9	"	
Laurel Cottage	D. Holborn	Privy reconstructed, new gullies cut in.
10, Queen Street	Stephenson	Privy reconstructed
South Cliff Road Farm	John Ellwood	Sanitary channels cut down in Cowhouse and floor of same made good
9, 10, 11, Cambridge St	G. Cambridge	Privies, ashpits and Gullies reconstructed
Arthur Street (W. Hodgson occupier)	W. Cockerline	Drains taken up, relaid and tested, Privy reconstructed.
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 Sea View, Queen St.	John Ward	All drains taken and relaid, new gullies fixed where necessary. Urinal connected with No. 8 (Commercial Inn) reconstructed.
Shop, Queen St (Teesdale)	E. Sequest	Drains taken up & relaid. Pans provided for closets
" " (Harrison)		

PROPERTY	OWNER	WORK DONE
1 & 2, Railway Crescent		Drains taken up and relaid. Pans provided for closets.
1, 2, 3, South View	C. W. May	Drains taken up & relaid. Well cleaned.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Lincoln Terrace (Edward Street)	J. Lisson	Drains taken up & relaid. Well cleaned out. Down spouts disconnected from drains.
2, South Cliff Road	J. Bown	Privy reconstructed
Ivy Lodge, Queen Street	"	Drains taken up & relaid.
Lifeboat House		Drains taken up & relaid
Eaton House, Princes St.		Defective Privy & gullies made good.
10, 11, South Cliff Road	Mr Gray	Drains taken up & relaid to proper falls, and Well cleaned out.
12, 13 " "	S. Atkinson	
11, 12, 13, 14, High Brighton Street	P. Dawson	Out off drain connections were good. Well cleaned out.
Pier Hotel		Drains taken up & relaid

In addition to inspections made of special localities and circumstances, I made with your Surveyor systematic inspections of the District in May and September.

In June and August I inspected the Dairies supplying milk to the District and also the Slaughterhouses in the District. Both were on the whole found in good order and clean, and any defects at once remedied at our suggestion.

The Factory and Workshop Act 1901, which came into force on 1st January, 1902, imposes new duties in connection with every place of work coming under the Act upon District Councils, and Medical Officers of Health have been in their Annual Reports to report specifically on

the administration of the Act within their Districts, which I now do on a form specially prepared for that purpose.

It will be observed that two general inspections were made and that the sanitary conditions were in all cases found to be satisfactory.

A Register of Workshops has been duly kept.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F.E. Spurrell

Medical Officer of Health.